

We claim:

1. Apparatus for cooling electronic equipment, comprising
at least two sources of cool air;
a damper in series with each of said sources;
5 sensors to detect unsatisfactory cooling air being received from each of the
sources;
each damper controlled by a switch; and
a processor responsive to signals from said sensors for controlling the
operation of said dampers in such a way as to provide satisfactory cooling air to
10 said electronic equipment.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
a main controller for controlling a plurality of said apparatus for cooling
electronic equipment, said main controller for providing over-ride signals to the
processors of each of said apparatus to ensure that special critical equipment is
15 adequately cooled in the presence of adverse conditions.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:
a control console for applying control signals to said main controller.
4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said main controller responds to a
brownout signal by sending equipment shut down signals to preselected ones of
20 said plurality of apparatus.
5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said main controller responds to a
brownout signal by sending damper control request signals to preselected ones of
said plurality of apparatus.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
25 a shutoff switch to cause said processor to shut down said electronic
equipment.
7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein only one of said damper switches is
normally open.
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein two of said damper switches can be
30 open.
9. A method for cooling electronic equipment, comprising:
providing at least two sources of cool air;
providing a damper in series with each of said sources;

detecting unsatisfactory cooling air being received from each of the sources
by means of sensors;

controlling each damper by a switch; and

responsive to signals from said sensors, analyzing said signals for

- 5 controlling the operation of said dampers in such a way as to provide satisfactory
cooling air to said electronic equipment.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

- providing a main controller for controlling a plurality of said apparatus for
cooling electronic equipment, for generating over-ride signals to ensure that special
10 critical equipment is adequately cooled in the presence of adverse conditions.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

applying control signals to said main controller from a control console.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

- responding to a brownout signal by sending equipment shut down signals to
15 preselected apparatus.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said main controller responds to a
brownout signal by sending damper control request signals to preselected
apparatus.

14. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

- 20 operating a shutoff switch to cause said electronic equipment to be shut
down.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein only one of said damper switches is
normally open.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein two of said damper switches can be
25 open.